

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/P:WJGEHRON:SS

APPROVED BY EUR/P:FSEIDNER

EUR/SE - MR. LEDSKY

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

S/S:JMEALUM

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P 210036Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT:CYPRUS SITUATION

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S ON CYPRUS SITUATION, NOON PRESS
BRIEFING JANUARY 20, CONDUCTED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
ANDERSON:

QUOTE: Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING, ANY REACTION TO THE
EVENTS IN CYPRUS WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THERE?

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A: WELL, WE GAVE OUT, OVER THE WEEKEND, THE FACT WE DID
EXPRESS OUR VERY GREAT CONCERN OVER WHAT HAPPENED AT OUR
EMBASSY. AND I THINK YOU ALL WOULD REALIZE THAT WE FELT
VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS. AFTER ALL, WE HAD AN AMERICAN

AMBASSADOR WHO LOST HIS LIFE THERE EARLIER, AND THE QUESTION OF ANY FURTHER INJURY TO ANY AMERICAN WOULD BE OF VERY GREAT CONCERN TO US.

NOW, THERE WERE SOME DEMONSTRATIONS EARLIER TODAY IN NICOSIA, AS YOU HAVE SEEN ON THE TICKER, AND IN ONE OF THESE, ABOUT TWO THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS TRIED TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE USIS LIBRARY IN NICOSIA. AND THE CYPRIOT SECURITY FORCES, THAT IS THE POLICE AND THE NATIONAL GUARD, USED TEAR GAS AND WATER HOSES, AND THEY INTERVENED AND SUCCEEDED IN REPULSING THIS EFFORT. AND THERE WAS VERY MINOR DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING; I.E., THERE WERE SOME

BROKEN WINDOWS, AND THAT WAS ALL. AND LATER, ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS PERSONALLY CAME ONTO THE SCENE, AND HE FOR ORDER, AND DISPERSED MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS. AS OF OUR LAST READING, THINGS ARE QUIET. THERE ARE A FEW DEMONSTRATORS, MAYBE A COUPLE HUNDRED OR SO, I AM TOLD, THERE, BUT THINGS ARE RELATIVELY QUIET, AND WE HOPE THAT IT WILL REAMIN THAT WAY.

Q: CAN I GO BACK TO CYPRUS AGAIN? TWO QUESTIONS. WHAT DO DEMONSTRATIONS LIKE THIS DO TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS? AND WHAT PART IS THE UNITED STATES PLAYING, SPECIFICALLY DR. KISSINGER PLAYING, IN THE WHOLE PROCESS?

A: WELL, NUMBER ONE, I THINK WE SHOULD REALIZE WAY THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE. AS WE ALL KNOW, THEY TOOK PLACE BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN BY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS OF THE EVACUATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM A BRITISH SOVEREIGN BASE AREA TO TURKEY.

ON THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT ON BACKGROUND TO YOU THAT THIS SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN A SUBJECT OF THE MANY, MANY TALKS WITH, AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN, THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WITH REGARD TO MOVING TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
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WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE INCREASED TEMPO OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH. AS YOU KNOW, THEY DECIDED LAST WEEK THAT FROM NOW ON, THEY ARE GOING TO MEET TWICE A WEEK, ON MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS. THEY ARE GETTING INTO, AS THEY THEMSELVES HAVE ANNOUNCED, THE POLITICAL QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IF THE PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

WE CONTINUE TO BE IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL THE PARTIES. THEY MET AGAIN THIS MORNING, INCIDENTALLY, MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH, AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THIS, AND WE

CONSIDER THAT A RAPID SETTLEMENT HERE IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ANYTHING WE CAN TOWARDS THAT END.

Q: WELL HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ROLE THAT IS NOW BEING PLAYED BY DR. KISSINGER? IS HE A "MEDIATOR"? IS HE JUST A BYSTANDER?

A: WELL, I WOULD NOT CLASSIFY HIM AS A FORMAL MEDIATOR. HE IS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PARTIES, REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM.

HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS OWN "PLAN." THE UNITED STATES AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN PLAN BECAUSE WE REMAIN PERSUADED THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU ARE GOING TO GET A SETTLEMENT OF THIS TERRIBLY COMPLICATED PROBLEM, IS, IF THE PARTIES, THEMSELVES, CAN WORK THIS OUT.

NOW HE WILL BE, AND HAS BEEN, OFFERING SUGGESTIONS -- LISTENING TO OPINIONS GIVEN TO HIM BY THE DIFFERENT PARTIES -- DOING WHAT HE CAN TO CLARIFY ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER. BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT HE IS A "FORMAL MEDIATOR" AS SUCH.

WE, FOR INSTANCE, DONOT PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS -- THE TWICE-A-WEEK MEETINGS- BETWEEN MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH. WE DON'T PARTICIPATE. THERE IS A U.N. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FELLOW, BUT WE DON'T GET INTO THAT.

Q: YOU SAID THAT THE EVACUATION OF THE TURKISH REFUGEES FROM THE BRITISH BASE WAS NEVER A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BY THE SECRETARY. WOULD YOU SAY WHETHER THE SECRETARY, OR THE UNITED STATES, OR WHOEVER IS CONCERNED -- THAT THIS EVACUATION AND THEIR RETURN TO TURKISH CONTROLLED AREAS, WILL LEAD, OR COULD LEAD, TO A PARTITION OF THE ISLAND, WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TRYING TO PREVENT?

A: I THINK ON THIS, ON BACKGROUND I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT INASMUCH AS WE WERE NOT A PARTY TO THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION THAT WE JUST DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON IT AT ALL.

Q: WELL, WERE THE GREEKS A PARTY TO IT? COULD I JUST FOLLOW THAT UP? WERE THE GREEKS A PARTY TO IT, OR WAS THIS ALL DONE, JUST BETWEEN THE TURKS AND THE BRITISH, AND NOT -- NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR THE GREEKS, NOR THE GREEK CYPRIOTS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE BRITISH DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE GREEKS OR NOT. I THINK YOU HAVE TO ADDRESS YOURSELF ELSEWHERE ON THAT.

Q: BUT THIS WAS NOT DISCUSSED BETWEEN KISSINGER AND BITSIOS, AND ESENBEL. BUT DID CALLAGHAN TELL US THAT

HE LET THESE PEOPLE GO?

A: WE KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO COME ABOUT, YES, WE DID. I THINK, TO GO BACK TO ANOTHER QUESTION JUST NOW, TO MAKE IT AS CLEAR AS I CAN -- THAT FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS IN BRUSSELS FOR THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AND AS WE KNOW, HE HAD MANY MEETINGS WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS -- THIS SUBJECT WAS NEVER A PART OF THE POSSIBLE ELEMENTS THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT -- THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION OF THE EVACUATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREA.

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Q: IS IT QUITE RIGHT, THAT THE U.S. POLICY IS AGAINST PARTITION OF THE ISLAND, OR "REMAINS SUCH?"

A: THERE IS A VERY DELICATE SITUATION ON THIS, AS WE ALL KNOW, AND AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE: WE DO NOT HAVE "OUR PLAN". THIS QUESTION OF THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLAND IS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAS TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE PARTIES -- AND ABOVE ALL, AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES -- AND IT WOULD MAKE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE AT ALL FOR US TO TELL THEM "THIS IS THE WAY YOU OUGHT TO DO IT." THEY HAVE TO WORK IT OUT.

Q: BUT YOU NEVER REALLY ANSWERED THE QUESTION. DID WE ADVISE THE BRITISH NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS? OR DID WE CONCUR WITH THEM, OR WHAT --

A: I WOULD RATHER NOT COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: WELL COULD I GO BACK TO MY SECOND QUESTION WHICH WAS: ARE WE CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD ENCOURAGE A DRIVE TOWARD PARTITION OF THE ISLAND -- WHETHER WE FAVOR IT OR NOT -- SINCE I DIDN'T MEAN TO STATE AMERICAN POLICY.

A: I'M NOT SURE THAT IT WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO EVENTUATE IN THAT.

Q: A LOT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT.

A: I KNOW THEY ARE CONCERNED, AND AS I SAID EARLIER,

OBTAINING A SETTLEMENT THAT IS GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL
ON THIS ISLAND HAS GOT TO BE ONE WHERE ALL THE PARTIES
-- AND THIS INCLUDES OBVIOUSLY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS --

HAVE GOT TO BE SATISFIED THAT IT'S GOING TO BE WORKABLE.

IF IT ISN'T GOING TO BE THAT WAY, IT ISN'T GOING TO
WORK.

Q: CAN I RELATE THE DEMONSTRATIONS TO THIS: DESPITE
THE SACKING OF THE USIS LIBRARY OF THE UNITED STATES,
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AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SECRETARY PLANS TO CONTINUE
HIS ROLE, WHATEVER THAT ROLE IS, THE DEMONSTRATIONS
AND THE SACKING OF THE LIBRARY WILL HAVE NO EFFECT --

A: THEY DIDN'T "SACK" IT, INCIDENTALLY, FORTUATELY,
THEY DIDN'T GET IN, AS I SAID IN THE BEGINNING --

Q: YES -- BUT HE WILL CONTINUE, DESPITE WHATEVER IS
HAPPENING ON THE ISLAND IN THESE DEMONSTRATIONS?

A: YES. HE IS, AS OF NOW -- AS I HAVE SAID, WE ARE
CONTINUING TO REMAIN IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES
AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO DO ANYTHING WE CAN TO HELP
OUT.

Q: IS THE CONGRESSIONAL REPRIEVE ON ARMS INSTRUMENTAL
IN ALL THIS PROGRESS THAT YOU SEEM TO SEE?

A: ON THE QUESTION OF THE FEBRUARY 5 DATE, JUST LET
ME SAY THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS. THE SECRETARY
IS IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE CONGRESS ON DEVELOP-
MENTS IN CYPRUS.

Q: WELL, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS HAPPENING TO CONSTITUTE
"SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATING PROGRESS?"

A: I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY, AS I HAVE SAID TODAY AND
PREVIOUSLY, THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RESUMPTION
OF THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS, AND WE ARE EVEN MORE
ENCOURAGED BY THEIR DECISION TO INCREASE THE TEMPO OF
THESE TALKS, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOW COMING DOWN TO DISCUSS
THE ISSUES THAT MUST BE SOLVED IF THERE IS GOING TO BE
A SOLUTION.

Q: A MINOR POINT: I HAVE NEVER HEARD A U.S. OFFICIAL
QUARREL WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER
AS A "MEDIATOR" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND YET THE
DEFINITION OF HIS ROLE, AS YOU JUST OUTLINED IT A FEW

MINUTES AGO, BETWEEN THE TURKS AND THE GREEKS, SEEMS
ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ROLE THAT HE IS PLAYING IN
THE MIDDLE EAST.
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WHERE IS THE DISTINCTION? WHY IS HE A "MEDIATOR" IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND NOT IN --

A: WELL FRANKLY, ON THIS QUESTION OF PUTTING A LABEL
ON WHAT THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS ARE HERE -- MAYBE
WE JUST END UP GETTING INTO A LOT OF SEMANTICS. I
DON'T -- ON BACKGROUND -- I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR
OBJECTION IF YOU WISH TO INTERPRET THE FACT THAT THE
SECRETARY IS A "MEDIATOR" BUT THERE -- HE IS WORKING
INFORMALLY HERE, AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT INDUCED
ME TO SAY WHAT I SAID ABOUT "NOT TRYING TO PUT AN
OFFICIAL MEDIATOR LABEL" ON THE SECRETARY.

Q: I SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS, BUT I DON'T:
DO WE HAVE ANY AMBASSADOR THERE?

A: YES, BILL CRAWFORD. INCIDENTALLY, AMBASSADOR
CRAWFORD LEFT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. HE IS IN LONDON
AND WILL RETURN TO NICOSIA TOMORROW. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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